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Moment of Parting

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MOMENT OF PARTING

Troy Slonecker

II. Moment of Parting

When the burning season comes
and fields blaze in contained borders,
smoke hovers in the atmosphere
and glides amongst the warm and cold fronts.

In the unripened infancy of fall
when summer has breathed her last
warm breath, but the leaves have not
browned nor the flowers entirely withered,

I recall sitting on that back porch
and breathing the thick musty air,
but this air was sweeter than that,
my grandfather's hand on my knee

while he smoked the pleasant aroma
of his wooden pipe, and we watched
the bright blaze rising over the fields
devouring the old and making way for the new.